

NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, April 13

Time: 10 AM until 12:30 PM

Location: NWS – Newport, NC

Attendees: Rich Bandy, Aleta Hohn, Jennifer Dorton

Call in: Michael Voiland, Jeff Payne, Susan White, Darin Figursky, Geno Olmi, Mike Emlaw,
Andy Shepard, Dave Evans, Bob Bacon, Ginny Fay

Meeting Notes:

1. Jack Thigpen is at home and feeling better. He has enjoyed all of the e-mails and cards.
2. Hurricane Hunter visit to Raleigh & Wilmington, May 6 & 7, respectively.
 - a. Raleigh: Good shape for the hurricane hunter visit. Newport NWS office is going to help out. Schools coming from 10AM to 2PM, then elected official and emergency managers and finally, from 3PM to 5PM the general public. NinC will have a booth at the event.
 - b. Wilmington: Good shape for event. UNCW will have a buoy on display. Jennifer Dorton and Andy Shepard will help work the NinC booth at the event as well as NERR and NC Sea Grant staff.
3. Funding for Jennifer – Jeff & Mike
 - a. She was supported for 0.44 FTE this past year. There is a no-cost extension to keep her assistance to get to the workshop.
 - b. Issue is how to extend her into a new year. Various groups offered to contribute funds to continue her position. Mike will follow up with UNCW.
4. CI-FLOW update
 - a. On agenda for Hurricane Floyd conference at ECU in September.
 - b. Jack has a PPT file on CI-FLOW that Mike will send around for the SC to look over.
 - c. Bob: PPT will be refined for upcoming workshop at ECU. After refined, post to NinC website.
 - d. Updated website for CI-FLOW. URL is in the PPT.
 - e. Darin: integrating with the HMT SE. CI-FLOW work figures directly into the HMT project. Suzanne presented to the HMT SE workshop in Feb.
 - f. Jeff informed the group that Kevin Kelleher approached Dave Eslinger about becoming the regional POC to coordinate communications and interactions to keep CI-FLOW project plan moving forward. Dave Eslinger will bring a regional perspective to the project and has connections with regional users and stakeholders. Dave might be able to spend 20% of his time assisting with the project and hopefully strengthen the team and take us along the path to pre-operational status.

- g. Jeff also discussed a conference call that he had with Kevin and Suzanne regarding SECART support for CI-FLOW. SECART gave \$25K during FY08 and \$25K in matched funds by Gary Carter, the lead for the Integrated Water Resources PATT. Funds helped develop the CI-FLOW public outreach utility as a part of the NOWCOAST website. Kevin and Suzanne are working to see if they need SECART funds again this year. SECART has CI-FLOW as a high priority so if they need specific tasks done, SECART is willing to help with funding and help leverage funds for the upcoming year. Kevin and Suzanne will get back to Jeff later this week if they have specific objectives.
5. NinC Fall meeting: October 20-21 at NOAA CSC – Michael Liffman was unable to call in during this part of the meeting.
- a. We did not review the meeting plan document based on the Ocean's Tomorrow document which was sent out on April 9. There was some discussion regarding the weight and priority that should be given to the Ocean's Tomorrow document. Jeff stated that the document comes from the NOAA Ocean's Council. There may have been noise about the document back in January but not certain if it is really being pushed within NOAA.
 - i. **Geno are going to gather more info and background on the document.**
 - b. At the NOAA regional collaboration meeting held in CO last week Aleta, Jeff & Ginny had a sidebar meeting to discuss the NinC annual meeting. It was suggested that we convene a group of people to help plan a meeting that will purposefully draw regional constituents, continue the constructive networking that occurs at NinC meetings, and be highly responsive to the driving issue(s) or interest(s) in the region, such as climate change. This group should include NOAA (NinC, SECART, Coastal Integration Team and others) and non-NOAA partners (e.g. EPA, USGS) to discuss climate needs and determine how we can shape a future meeting that will bring all of these groups together for a broader meeting.
 - i. There was some general discussion about this option. Susan brought up the fact that while climate is important and we are serving a community that is interested in Climate we should consider the fact that not all of their concerns are necessarily based on Climate (e.g. water quality and habitat change are not solely driven by climate). The SARRP results for NC and SC also point out this fact. When we think about local planning committees (which we work with here in the Carolinas) they are worried about climate but also worried about whether their kids and visitors can swim in the water.
 - ii. Darin stated that we have thought long and hard about ways to make a meeting something that we can sustain for the future. I like the idea of being able to sit

down with a smaller group and determine what it is we need to do. However, as Susan brings up, water quality is a major issue as was pointed out in the SARRP results and as such, issues such as water quality should not be taken off the table.

- iii. Andy asked if the Ocean's Tomorrow document is something that will go in the strategic trashcan or will it behoove us to jump on this? Annual meetings are a good opportunity to communicate, come up with informal partnerships and look for projects that rise to the top. There is a concern that the smaller meeting will end up creating a very formal meeting that will not be inclusive of all of the groups that have traditionally participated in the meeting.
- iv. Aleta and Jeff both stated that there is a push within NOAA to downscale products to the regional/local scale.

c. To meet or not to meet?

- i. Darin – looking at the Ocean's tomorrow document NinC can address 1a, 1c and 2a. Problem that is we can't act on an Ocean's tomorrow meeting this year while planning something totally different for next year. If we decide to host a collaborative meeting then we shouldn't wait until October to start engaging NOAA and non-NOAA partners.
- ii. Aleta stated that if we go ahead and bring together the agency and interagency groups together early, then we can outline a meeting for early in the next calendar year; therefore, we are only postponing the meeting for a few months.
- iii. Rich noted that we seem torn on the purpose of the annual meetings. Maybe we should have a distinct drive for the annual meetings. The annual meeting may be a good opportunity to discuss what is driving things at the broader level so that they can then work within the smaller region to address national objectives.
- iv. Rich also brought up the fact that we need to have a game plan for the annual meeting. We need people to present on what they are working on which can benefit from crosscutting. If we have a game plan then we don't have to struggle each year to determine what we do for the next meeting.
- v. Many of the call participants said that feedback at end of last meeting highlighted the need for a reason for people to continue to come to the meetings. Don't host a workshop for the sake of having a workshop. From comments (provided during the small panel discussion at end of last meeting) we need to have a more focused workshop.

- d. Decision: Have a climate adaptation focused meeting. Get groups together by this summer and plan for a February meeting.

- i. ID who needs to be at the table: EPA, SECART, SE Alliance, CIT, NinC, SARRP (Merle Albert & Christine LaPorte)
 - 1. SE Alliance is only waiting on Gov Crist's signature. We will invite the state specific Alliance members (NC and SC). Need to decide if we should invite GA.
 - 2. Mike – people that implemented SARRP are getting together next week and will be putting together a process for prioritizing what is happening in the region. They have aligned well with ORAP and SE Alliance.
 - ii. **Andy** will start a document that IDs who should be at the table, objectives of the meeting and what we hope to get out of it and the timeframe for the meeting. Send to group for additions/comments. **Andy will get this document to Jennifer by the end of the week. Jennifer will forward to Ginny for further review and edits/comments. Once back from Ginny it will go to the entire group.**
 - iii. Once the document is distributed to the SC, **members will have to contact appropriate people within these agencies.** By next meeting we will have compiled a list of potential attendees and have an idea of who is really interested. Think about where to hold the meeting and if we can piggy back with another meeting.
 - iv. Meeting with these stakeholders – hold by this summer.
- 6. In the Spotlight for May: Hollings Marine Lab – **Jennifer will work with Susan** to get the material ready for the web.
 - 7. Newsletter items – Please send any newsletter items to Jennifer so that we can get a newsletter out by May.